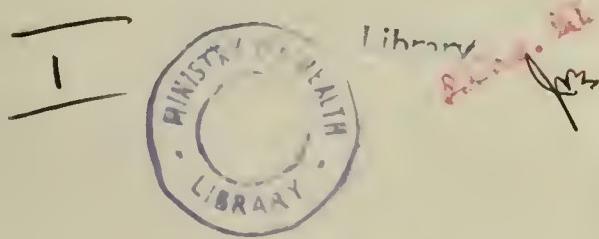


RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1964

ARTHUR LUCAS

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

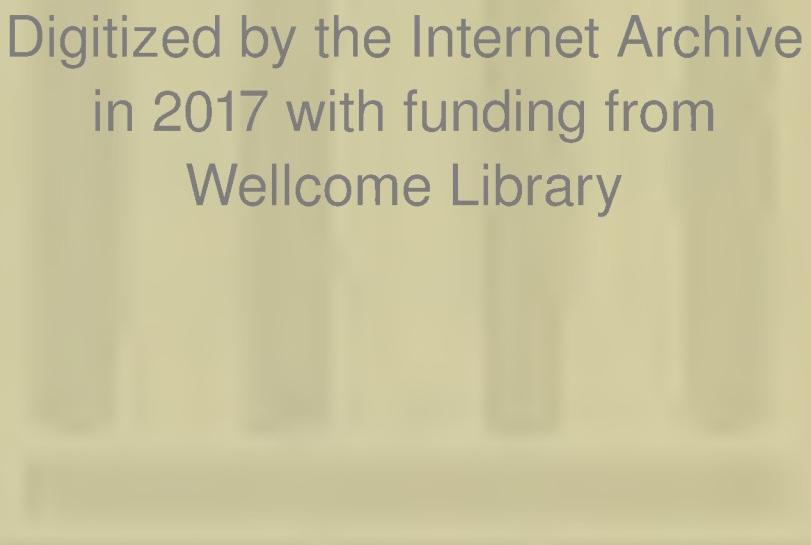
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

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ARTHUR LUCAS



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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1964. Statistics agree with those of England and Wales, measles again playing a large part in the notification of Infectious Diseases.

Sewerage schemes are progressing favourably but one would like to see more liaison with the Planning Department so that where a village is likely to increase in size an increase in size of the Sewage Plant would be developed before the increase in the size of the village.

Again the problem of Conveniences at lay-bys is being considered at higher levels, but where they have been provided they are found to be in a filthy state. What is the answer?

Refuse collection is now satisfactory and there is no reason why it should not continue to be so.

Again I have pleasure in thanking the Public Health Committee for their great interest in the Health of the District. Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Caley were again very vigilant in their duties and it is a great pleasure to work with them.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.

26th July, 1965.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

L. C. Bartlett, Esq., J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

L. S. Prosser, Esq.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. L. S. Prosser (Chairman), Mr. L. F. Warren (Vice-Chairman),
Mrs. I. S. Forrest, Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward, Messrs.
P. W. Henn, F. Mason, Rev. R. J. Rowbury, E. J. Smart, J. A. C.
Thornycroft and Rev. Sir C. W. Wigram, Bt.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex officio
members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., County Hall, Guildhall
Road, Northampton. Telephone No. Northampton 34833.

Also holds appointments of :—

Medical Officer of Health in Brackley Borough; Towcester
R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical
Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Northamptonshire
County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors :

Miss C. R. Reynolds.

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett (resigned 29/4/64)
W. G. Readman (commenced 24/8/64)

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1964

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,120
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1964	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,805
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1964	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£261,048
Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1964	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,110

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	Brackley (per 1000 population)	Northamp- tonshire	Engand & Wales
Legitimate	230	123	107			
Illegitimate	14	7	7			
Total	244	130	114	20·1	19·1	17·1

Stillbirths

Legitimate	1	—	1			
Illegitimate	1	1	—			
Total	2	1	1	8·1 (per 1,000 births)	13·46	16·3
Deaths	124	59	65	10·2 (per 1'000 population)	10·56	11·6

Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infant Mortality

Legitimate	14	12	2			
Illegitimate	3	—	3			
Total	17	12	5	28·7 (per 1,000 live births)	18·36	21·3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
" " Measles	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	Nil
" " Infectious Diseases	8
" " Tuberculosis	1

The registered causes of death were :

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	2	9
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system...	3	10	13
18. Coronary diseases, angina	17	12	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
20. Other heart diseases	10	9	19
21. Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	5	8
24. Bronchitis	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	8	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1
34. All other accidents	—	1	1
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicidal and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals		59	65
			124

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream, water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. This most useful and efficient service is under the control of Dr. W. H. H. Jebb to whom I am indebted.

(b) Nursing in The Home

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare—Brackley		
Orthopædic Clinic	Cottage Hospital	Organised by County Council
Vision Clinic	Brackley	
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney, King's Sutton and Helmdon.		

(d) Blind Persons

Incidence of blindness is reported upon in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) Tuberculosis

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) Dental Treatment

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) Epileptics and Spastics

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

(h) Domiciliary Services

Details are included in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Generally.

Again I can report favourably concerning the steady improvement in sanitary circumstances taking place throughout the district. Main water is available to most habited premises whilst in each parish the greater number of people enjoy the advantages of waterborne sanitation. Collection of house refuse takes place every 8 days or thereabouts. The tempo increases in respect to the building of new houses whilst good progress has been maintained in the reconditioning of existing houses.

Drainage and Sanitation.

House drainage facilities are available at the large majority of premises. The pail or bucket closet will soon be a relic of the past. Most houses now possess a sink with a good supply of water. An increasing number of houses are enjoying the use of a bathroom.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The provision of new sewers and sewage disposal works was completed this year in the villages of Aston-le-Walls, Boddington, and Sulgrave, and I would like to congratulate the Council on this achievement. There are certain villages, however, where the increase in new house building has overtaxed the existing sewers and the arrangements for sewage disposal. As such conditions could present a dangerous situation to public health in the localities concerned I would urge the Council to proceed with the necessary new schemes as early as this can be done. I refer in particular to the parishes of Middleton Cheney, ~~Farthinghoe~~^{CHARLTON} and Crowfield. By referring to the table on page 9 the position as it was at the end of the year may be seen.

Place	New Sewers	New Sewage Disposal Works
Aston le Walls	Completed	Completed
Aynho	Completed	Scheme being prepared in conjunction with King's Sutton
Boddington	Completed	Completed
Chacombe	Completed	Completed
Charlton	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared in conjunction with King's Sutton
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	Works to be extended
Crowfield	Completed	Scheme being prepared
Culworth	Completed	Completed
Evenley	Work out to tender	Work out to tender
Eydon	Completed	Work in progress
Farthinghoe	Completed	Completed
Greatworth	Completed	Completed
Helmdon	Completed	Completed
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	Deferred	Deferred
Kings Sutton	Completed	Joint scheme being prepared
Marston St. Lawrence	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Middleton Cheney (Lower)	Completed	Completed
Middleton Cheney (Upper)	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed
Radstone	Deferred	Deferred
Sulgrave	Completed	Completed
Syresham	Completed	Completed
Thenford	Deferred	Deferred
Thorpe Mandeville	Completed	Completed
Whitfield	Tenders approved	Tenders approved

Water Supply (Regional Scheme).

By and large the quality and quantity of the supply has been satisfactory and this is borne out by the reports of samples taken for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

A total of 146 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The 4 samples which were reported upon as being unsatisfactory were quickly followed up and check samples proved to be all right. The reason for contamination cannot be explained. It took a similar pattern to that of last year the contamination being local and transient in character.

There were 12 complaints received concerning mainly the discolouration or taste or smell of water supplied to dwellinghouses. In one parish the colour of the water resembled "gravy" and the housewife was annoyed that this water had actually stained clothes which had been washed in it. This was an exceptional case and flushing through a hydrant cleared the water. As many private wells are still open in the district there is always the risk that water from this source will be used in preference to mains water if it becomes discoloured, or tastes or smells too strongly of chlorine. Any illness caused by the consumption of raw well water, which is known to be mostly contaminated and unfit for drinking unless treated, may be blamed to the mains water which was in fact blameless so far as its bacteriological condition was concerned but left much to be desired in regard to physical condition. The country folk even now remember the flavour of the well water and prefer it to the taste of chlorine. They say that chlorine content in water upsets the brewing of "a nice cup of tea." The point surely is that the better the physical character and palatability of the water the more likely it is that the majority of people will use it without running the real risk of using water from wells on occasions.

The Bucks Water Board took 293 samples of raw water of which 291 contained coliform organisms; these were of faecal origin. The Board also took 843 samples of treated water.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no fluoride is added.

The following Table shows the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied with water from the public mains. That water is taken inside the houses in most cases and in only a few instances is water supplied by standpipes outside.

Parish	Dwellinghouses	Estimated Population
Aston-le-Walls	50	188
Aynho	175	477
Boddington	127	360
Chacombe	94	312
Chipping Warden	130	430
Croughton	141	1,000
Culworth	130	418
Edgecote	private supply	76
Evenley	124	385
Eydon	117	345
Farthinghoe	99	351
Greatworth	124	552
Helmdon	191	500
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	30	94
King's Sutton	489	1,720
Marston St. Lawrence	64	186
Middleton Cheney	737	2,586
Moreton Pinkney	97	256
Newbottle	114	386
Radstone	17	73
Sulgrave	125	340
Syresham	161	660
Thenford	19	83
Thorpe Mandeville	35	146
Warkworth	5	40
Whitfield	42	156
<hr/>		
		3,437
<hr/>		
		12,120
<hr/>		

Bacteriological Samples of Regional Supply :

Details of samples taken in 1964 are as follows :—

PARISH or VILLAGE	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	3	—	3
Aynho	5	—	5
Upper Boddington	3	—	3
Lower Boddington	3	—	3
Chacombe	4	—	4
Chipping Warden	3	—	3
Croughton	4	—	4
Crowfield	4	—	4
Culworth	4	—	4
Evenley	11	—	11
Eydon	8	2	10
Farthinghoe	4	—	4
Greatworth	8	2	10
Halse	4	—	4
Helmdon	8	—	8
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	4	—	4
Kings Sutton	7	—	7
Marston St. Lawrence	4	—	4
Middleton Cheney	7	—	7
Moreton Pinkney	4	—	4
Newbottle	4	—	4
Overthorpe	4	—	4
Radstone	5	—	5
Sulgrave	3	—	3
Syresham	8	—	8
Thenford	4	—	4
Thorpe Mandeville	4	—	4
Warkworth	3	—	3
Whitfield	5	—	5
	142	4	146

Sampling of Private Water Supplies :

This is done mainly upon request and in the event of a sample proving bacteriologically unsatisfactory advice is given to connect to the mains supply if this is practicable or alternatively to chlorinate or otherwise efficiently treat the water.

Chemical Samples of Regional Supply.

It is usual for 2 samples to be taken each year for chemical analysis the results of those taken this year are shown on pages 13 and 14. Such analysis, together with results of the bacteriological examinations, gives a comprehensive picture of the condition of the regional water supply serving this district and its suitability for drinking.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37, Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

3rd March, 1964.

Ref. CNG/ET/W.95

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 20th February, 1964.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Water from Village Stores, Evenley.
Bucks Water Board—Main Supply.

Appearance.—Bright, few large particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·026
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·09
Chlorine in Chlorides	41·5
Nitrate Nitrogen	1·6
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours ...	1·0
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	565
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7·8
Free Chlorine	Absent
Radioactivity	—
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	705 micromhos

The above results show that this water to be of satisfactory quality, and subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination suitable for use as a Public Supply.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37 Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

28th July, 1964

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 17th July, 1964.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Sample of Water from tap at Skaigh House,
Evenley. 17/7/64.

Appearance, very slightly turbid, few large particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·20
Chlorine in Chlorides	42·5
Nitrate Nitrogen	1·4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	1·4
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	380
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7·0
Free Chlorine	0·1
Radioactivity	--
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	505 micromhos
Iron, in solution	0·25
Total	0·6

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality, and similar in composition to the samples examined in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963.

The sample contained free chlorine and if the bacteriological results remain satisfactory it would, in its present condition be safe for use for drinking purposes.

The iron content, however, is somewhat high.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

Caravan and Camping Sites.

The parking of caravans does not cause much trouble in this area. The number of licensed caravan sites is now 12 involving 19 caravans. Only those of a good type are allowed and each is required to comply with conditions pertaining to hard standings, water supply, sanitation, storage of refuse, etc.

Now and again the odd caravaner who is passing through the district or intending to stay only for a few days is found to be responsible for leaving behind rubbish. The amount of litter and rubbish found dumped along our country lanes is increasing and presents a problem giving much concern to local authorities up and down the country. So far as this district is concerned the Council have made it clear that they would not hesitate to prosecute any offender if discovered. Neither the officials nor the police have so far been successful in tracking down the culprits. The act of indiscriminate dumping is usually performed during the hours of darkness or if otherwise, the offender cleverly makes sure that he is not seen.

Camping except by Gipsies is rarely seen here and these folk soon pass on their way and usually leave their camping places fairly clean and tidy.

The motorist who uses our lay-bys as a pull up for a snack or a rest from the rigours of driving also makes use of these places, especially at public holiday times or at week ends, for the purpose of sleeping in his car overnight. He also makes use of other locations in our countryside, such as lanes, fields and grass verges, for similar reasons to those which I have just described. It is on these occasions that far too many motorists abuse these resting places by leaving behind litter and refuse which eventually has to be cleared away by the local authority concerned. There is also the much more serious situation when certain spots at these stopping places are used as public lavatories creating a situation which is prejudicial to the public health from flyborne infection; such conditions are also bound to attract rodents to the area.

It was mentioned in my Report for 1963 that this is a nationwide problem which should be tackled without further delay on a national basis by the provision of toilet facilities on lay-bys at regular distances along the main roads of this

country. By ample publicity and through the agency of the various motoring organisations the motorist should be urged to observe a strict code of good behaviour when using lay-bys and similar resting places on the roads of this country. Quite good toilet facilities are now available at many garages but these are usually for the use of the customers only. If such facilities could be made available to the motorist at large it would doubtless appreciably assist in solving this problem but the owners of garages could not be expected to do this without some recompense.

Perhaps the local authority or County Council could give some financial aid to these garages who would allow the toilets to be used by the motorist generally.

Schools.

There are 19 schools serving the area, one of which is a private school and all excepting the private one are maintained and controlled by the Northamptonshire County Council.

Each school is visited several times during the year. In 1964 the number of visits made was 77 as against 97 during the previous year. The visits are mainly concerned with the sampling of milk and drinking water. The milk supplied is Pasteurised. The number of milk samples taken was 11 all of which satisfied both the methylene blue and phosphatase tests to which they were subjected indicating that the milk was of good keeping quality and had received efficient heat treatment. Water samples taken numbered 40 all being found bacteriologically satisfactory.

Offices and Shops.

This year saw the introduction of the Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. As from the 1st May certain premises were required to be registered with the Local Authority or in some instances with H.M. Inspector of Factories. The main provisions of the Act came into force as from 1st August. So far as this Council is concerned 32 registrations were received and by the end of the year a start had been made at making an inspection of the premises. It is not anticipated, however, that many places will fall short of the requirements of the Act as most of them are already

well known to the Health Inspectors who visit them in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations or the Factory Acts. This is where there is bound to be some overlapping. Whereas the Factory Act provided for the welfare of those working in factories and factory offices until the passing of this new Act persons working in offices and shops were not completely catered for so far as working conditions and welfare are concerned.

Smoke Abatement.

As is usually the case it was unnecessary to take any action in this respect during this year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Apart from public swimming baths which are available in Banbury or Brackley there are no adequate facilities open to the public for swimming in this rural area. There are several private swimming pools in the District which have been constructed by the owners concerned and it is only on some special occasion that a member of the Health Department is called in for some specific reason in relation to such pools.

Verminous Premises.

This year, like many previous years, no action was necessary.

Public Cleansing.

At the time of writing my previous Report the Council were endeavouring to improve on a fortnightly collection of house refuse collections. A rotational scheme of collection is now in operation which has reduced the period to 8—10 days. This is a worthy achievement upon which the Council and the Engineer and Surveyor and his staff, are to be congratulated.

I am pleased to observe that more standard sized sanitary dustbins are in use which are not only more hygienic for storing the refuse but greatly facilitate in collection.

Since the Council have decided to charge a 1/- per bin

for the collection of trade refuse it is remarkable how few complaints are made by shopkeepers concerning the storage and collection of refuse. The Council will issue a book of 30 tickets at a charge of 30/- and a ticket can be presented to the refuse collectors who will then pick up the trade refuse provided it is stored in a standard size bin.

Disposal of all refuse is still by tipping at Greatworth, Moreton Pinkney and Hinton in the Hedges.

Factories Act 1961.

One registered factory—a bakery—closed down during the year making the total number of factories now in the register 15. There were 31 visits made to these premises. In one case only was it necessary to take action in regard to contraventions of the Act.

Part VIII of the Factories Act.

Only 2 Outworks have been notified as working in this area for a factory situate in the neighbouring Borough of Banbury. The homes of these Outworkers have been visited and found suitable for the work carried on therein.

**Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961,
for the year 1963.**

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	13	29	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	31	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Numer of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases of which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1964

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Re-inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Inspections—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Food Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Factory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Building Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1039
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections of Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

Visits to :—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	286
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Cafes and Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Schools and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Summary of Complaints Received—1964

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 162 and concerned the following matters, viz. :—

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Insanitary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
General housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Noise Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Food and Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total								162

Statement of Housing Repairs or Improvements dealt with during the Year 1964.

	Number of Houses
Completely reconditioned as a result of statutory action by the Council	13
New drainage systems and water-closets installed	62
Sundry repairs and improvements carried out after service of notice	10

Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1936

Accumulations of refuse removed	12
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	2
Drainage and Sewerage defects	29

SECTION D

HOUSING

Slum Clearance and Improvement of Housing Conditions.

The Housing Act 1964 came into operation on 16th August. The main provisions of this Act are concerned with changes in the Schemes of the Discretionary and Standard Improvement Grants.

The intention of the Act is to secure improvement of dwellings in 'areas' to be designated by the Local Authority who are under a duty to inspect their district with a view to identifying areas suitable for improvements. There are provisions in the Act for the Council to execute any improvement work in default of the owner so doing and further provisions enabling the tenant of an occupied house to notify the Council of his wish to have his house brought up to standard whether or not it is in an improvement area.

In general, houses which still have a reasonable life are to be provided with the five "Standard Amenities" included in the Standard Grant viz :—hot water, fixed bath or shower, wash hand basin, inside W.C. and a proper food store.

This Council have instructed the Health Department to prepare a "Pilot" improvement area scheme choosing an average size village in the district and it is hoped that this will be possible by the end of 1965. This will involve a visit of inspection to most of the houses in the chosen village to ascertain those houses which are lacking in any of the five amenities before described.

Owing to pressure of other work, especially building inspection, it has not yet been possible to make a start on this pilot scheme.

With regard to Slum Clearance, the number of unfit houses continues to decrease, the Council taking necessary action as and when these dwellings become unoccupied. Action taken during 1964 is shown in Table B and the overall picture of the Slum Clearance Programme in Table A, Page 24.

Improvement Grants.

The Council approved a total of 38 Housing Grants during the year, i.e., 12 Discretionary Grants and 26 Standard Grants. This is an increase of 7 on the previous year.

New Dwellings (Council Houses).

The Council completed 22 dwelling units at Middleton Cheney and 4 at Sulgrave.

At the end of the year 12 dwellings were under construction at Greatworth.

Private Enterprise Houses.

The total number of new dwellings completed in 1964 was 168 as against 111 in 1963. At the end of the year a further 114 dwellings were under actual construction.

The rate of private enterprise building has increased rapidly during recent years as shown by the following table and this is an indication of the expansion which is taking place within this District.

Year	No. of Houses Built in the Year
1959	30
1960	26
1961	26
1962	75
1963	111
1964	168

Building Inspection.

A total of 1,039 Building Inspections were made during the year as against 921 in 1963. It will be recollected that the Public Health Inspectors were requested by the Council to take over this work which previously was the responsibility of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

TABLE "A"**"Slum Clearance" Programme.**

(Number of houses unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable expense.)

	At 31st Aug., 1955	At 31st Dec., 1964
Houses subject to existing Housing Act Orders :—		
Clearance Orders 71 —	
Demolition Orders Clos ing Orders and Undertakings ... 24	... ... ... 71	
Dwellings demolished and dwel- lings reconditioned :—		
Houses demolished ... ... ... —	... ... ... 164	
Huts demolished ... ... ... —	... ... ... 66	
Houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation ... ... —	... ... ... 142	
Number of dwellings scheduled for future action under the Housing Acts :—		
Ex-Wartime hutments 66 —	
Houses 336	... ... ... 75	

TABLE "B"**"Slum Clearance"—Action taken in 1964**

	Number of Dwellings
Demolished 9	
Closed (Closing Orders and Undertakings) ... 3	
Reconditioned and made fit for habitation ... 13	
Demolition Orders made 5	

TABLE "C".
Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position					Post-war Housing Programme					Total No. of Houses owned by Council.	
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites	Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Private houses acquired and reconditioned	
Aston-le-Walls	1	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	30	35
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	2	—	—	—	21	27
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	21	38
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	19	27
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	4	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	20	30
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	—	—	12	—	29	45
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	59	—	—	—	33	49
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	—	—	—	—	181	247
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	11	17
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	50	—	—	—	189	261
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	50	—	—	—	27	45
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	—	—	—	2	23	39
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	—	—	37	75
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
TOTAL	112	4	76	154	4	350	170	—	12	7	759	1116

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY

From time to time and also from authoritative sources mention is made that there can never be enough supervision of food handling premises. I agree with this as only by constant visitation to such premises are the standards and habits likely to be maintained at a satisfactory level. The work which this Department devotes in the interest of food hygiene is amply repaid by the satisfactory standard of food premises in the district. Nevertheless standards of food handlers do vary somewhat as do the premises in which they are employed but every endeavour is made to ensure that neither person nor premises deteriorate as to become a risk to the public health. Efforts continue to educate rather than prosecute whenever bad habits in food handlers are encountered.

Although 7 cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year none of these cases was confirmed which perhaps was not surprising as during investigations it was found that most patients had made practically a complete recovery by the time the notifications were received at the Health Department.

The number of food premises remains fairly constant. A cafe changed hands during the year whilst a Butcher's shop, Bakehouse, and Public House closed down.

Frozen Foods.

An increasing quantity of frozen foods is being sold in the area. The food manufactured is of good quality and stored under ideal conditions so that it is handed over to the consumer in a safe, pleasing and palatable state.

Public Houses or Inns.

It was mentioned in my report for the previous year that only one premises was without waterborne toilets. This lack of amenity has now been remedied as new sewerage facilities became available. The Bell Inn at Charlton has closed permanently. The Crewe Arms at Hinton-in-the-Hedges

which closed in 1963 was re-opened this year under new proprietorship.

Without exception the village pubs throughout the area are at a good standard and I would like to record my appreciation of the continued co-operation of the Brewery Companies which has made this possible.

Ice-Cream.

Considerable quantities of ice-cream are sold in the area. Although consumption is at its peak during the summer months a fair amount is eaten all the year round. Most people, both old and young, seem to like it. All samples taken showed the ice-cream to be of a satisfactory grade. The manufacture of this commodity has to-day reached a very high standard and any bad samples are usually due to some neglect or imperfection during storage or sale at the distribution end.

Milk Supply.

The number of licensed local milk distributors remains the same as last year i.e., 11. Licensing is delegated to this Authority by the County Council. Such licences are issued for a period of 5 years and expire at the end of this year.

There were no contraventions of the Milk Regulations requiring action to be taken so far as the distribution of milk was concerned. It is noticeable on occasions however, that a few milk producers premises in the area appear not to be maintained in an entirely satisfactory condition.

A total of 34 milk samples were taken and all satisfied the various tests to which they were subjected, viz :—

- 24 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)
- 1 Tuberculin Tested
- 7 Pasteurised
- 2 Sterilised

Of these samples approximately 11 were taken at schools.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Section 16).

Premises registerable in accordance with the provisions of the above Act now number 49 including 9 Butchers premises where sausages or pickled or preserved meats are manufactured and 40 places where ice-cream is stored for the purpose of sale by retail. It has been unnecessary to revoke any registration certificate. One Butcher's shop closed voluntarily during the year but is likely to re-open eventually

under new ownership and after considerable improvements to the premises have been made.

Meat Inspection Specifically.

Although each of the Public Health Inspectors is certificated by the Royal Society of Health and therefore qualified to do meat inspection none is necessary at the present time as it will be recalled that all private slaughterhouses in the district have for some years now been closed. Any existing slaughterhouse to-day is required to be modernised in accordance with requirements laid down by the Ministry of Health. Meat inspection carried out therein is required to be one hundred per cent. To completely modernise a slaughterhouse is a costly undertaking. In an establishment where the throughput is great it becomes often necessary for the employment of a whole time meat inspector whose hours of duty not infrequently include evenings and at weekends, even Sundays. Overtime is of course paid by the local authority. It is possibly to the mutual advantage of both Council and Officials that meat inspection at slaughterhouses is not one of the duties of this Department.

Food Inspection Generally.

As is customary in this Department a considerable amount of attention was given to foods displayed for sale in shops and other places. For this purpose 946 visits were made. On the whole the food was in very good condition and it was noted that due care and attention had been given by the distributors to the storage and preparation of the various foodstuffs which was well displayed in the shops.

Bacteriological Examination of Food Specimens.

With a view to ascertaining whether any specific food poisoning organisms were present and to obtain some information reflecting on the methods employed in production the following 17 articles of food were subjected to bacteriological examination.

In regard to a sample of pork sausages the plate count showed more than 5,000,000 organisms per gram. After a thorough discussion with the producers as to the probable causes for such a high count and suggesting possible remedial measures to be taken a check sample was obtained which indicated that the plate count had been reduced to a moderate growth.

Food Specimens for Bacteriological Examination

Food Specimen	Culture	Whether considered satisfactory
Steak and Kidney Pie	Moderate growth of Aerobic spore bearing organisms isolated	Yes
Curried Beef Pie	Ditto	Yes
Cornish Pastie	Ditto	Yes
Sausage Roll	Ditto	Yes
Pork Pie	Moderate growth of Aerobic spore - bearing Haemolytic streptococcus organisms isolated and <i>B. anitratum</i> isolated	No
Pork Sausages	Heavy growth of Aerobic spore - bearing organisms isolated. <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> a paracolanic organism and aerobic spore - bearing organisms isolated	No
Pork Sausages (follow-up sample)	Moderate growth of mixed coliform organisms. No member of the salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning groups isolated	Yes
Pork Sausages	Light growth of mixed coliform organisms. No member of the salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning groups isolated	Yes No ✓
Sausage Meat	Heavy growth of mixed coliform organisms. Moderate growth of <i>Staph. aureus</i> . No other pathogens isolated	No
Faggot	Heavy growth of Paracolanic organisms. Moderate growth of <i>Staph. aureus</i> . No other pathogens isolated	No
Sausage	Heavy growth of mixed coliform organisms. No member of the Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning groups isolated	No
Sausages	Moderate growth of mixed coliform organisms. No member of the Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning groups isolated	No
Steak and Kidney Pie	No growth	Yes
Black Pudding	No growth	Yes
Pork Sausages	No growth	Yes
Pork Pie	No growth	Yes
Pork Pie (follow-up sample)	No growth	Yes

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Details of samples taken by the County Council for the purpose of finding out if any of the articles were adulterated or not of the nature substance or quality required are set forth in the following table :—

SAMPLES TAKEN IN BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT IN THE 15 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH, 1965

Milk	76
Meat Products	14
Fish Products	3
Fruit and Vegetables	7
Butter	2
Jam	3
Lard	1
Condiments	2
Flour, Biscuits, etc.	3
Tea	1
Chocolate Liqueurs	1
Ice Cream	1
Orange Drink	1
Spirits	8
<hr/>	
Total.....	123
<hr/>	

Remarks.

It is pleasing to be able to report that all the samples taken in the Rural District during the period under review were completely satisfactory.

Details of the Various Food Premises in the District

Nature of Business	No. in District or on Register	No. of Visits during year
General Provision Stores ...	50	286
Butchers' Shops	9	136
Dining and Tea Rooms	4	54
Public Houses or Inns	33	146
Bakehouses	2	30
Milk Distributors	11	24
Ice Cream Premises	40	130
Fish Fryers or Fish Shops ...	1	2

Details of Repairs and Improvements to Food Premises.

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Structural Alterations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Redecorated Internally	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Name and address on vehicle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Precautions against contamination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Cafés and Public Houses

Toilets improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Apparatus and Utensils cleaned or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Structural alterations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bar Sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Redecorated internally	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION F.

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Out of the total of 179 cases notified for this year 161 were in respect to measles which was particularly prevalent during the months of May, June and July. It is interesting to observe that in the previous year a similar outbreak of measles involving 160 cases occurred when the peak period was at practically the same summer months.

There was only 1 case of Infective Hepatitis as against 9 cases notified in the previous year.

Like in the previous year no notification of Poliomyelitis was received.

The 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were all of a mild nature and treated at home.

Of the 7 notifications of food poisoning received two concerned a husband and wife at Culworth. Both were admitted to hospital for treatment which was successful. The cause of the infection was obscure. The other 5 notifications referred to a family in Kings Sutton who, together with a neighbouring family, went on a picnic during August Bank Holiday. Each family contributed to the meal eaten by preparing sandwiches and cakes at home. The picnic took place outside this district where most of the patients had eaten ice-cream in addition to the food prepared at home. By the time the Health Department had received information concerning the illness of members of this family no suspected food was available for examination and most of the persons affected had completely recovered or were well on the way to recovery.

Enteric Fever { No cases notified during the year.
Puerperal Fever }

Scarlet Fever.—There were 3 cases affecting children.

Sonnei Dysentery.—Notification of 1 case received.

Measles.—There were 161 cases notified.

Food Poisoning.—There were 7 cases notified.

It was unnecessary to admit any of the patients into isolation hospital.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
 (other than Tuberculosis)
 IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
 During the year, 1964.

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning (suspected)	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Boddington	—	—	—	32	1	—	—	—	—	32
Chacombe	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Croughton	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Culworth	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	27	1	—	1	—	—	27
Eydon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Farthinghoe	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
Greatworth	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	5
Helmdon	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	8
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton	1	—	—	4	2	—	5	—	—	12
Marston St. Lawrence	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Middleton Cheney	1	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	—	32
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newbottle/Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Syresham	1	—	—	43	—	—	—	—	—	44
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
Total	4	1	—	161	4	—	7	1	1	179

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever	9	—	5	—	8	3	4	7	2	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	3	1	4	1	3	4	1	—
Erysipelas	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	338	—	105	111	108	36	234	3	160	161
Whooping Cough	46	—	17	3	17	5	3	—	10	4
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	1
Poliomylitis	1	—	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	6	—	7	1	—	—	3	1
Suspected Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	7

**Period Distribution of Notified Cases of
Infectious Diseases—1964**

A statement showing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	14	15	2	46	50	13	3	1	3	3	6	161
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	6	14	15	2	47	52	17	8	2	3	6	7	179

Tuberculosis.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1964

Age Periods Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—
45 — 65	2	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1
Total	3	—	—	1

Total cases on the Register at the end of the year is 69 an increase of 3 male and 1 female and are classified as follows :—

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
25	22	13	9	38	31

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Details of these figures are now only given in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

RODENT CONTROL

During the early part of this year Mr. Bartlett, your Rodent Operative had, unfortunately, to resign due to illness

The work which he carried out throughout the 14 years that he was employed was of a very high standard and contributed in no small degree to the satisfactory control of rodent infestation in this district. His tact and pleasing personality were the secret of his success in getting along with the various types of people with whom he came in contact. On no occasion was it necessary to resort to legal entrance to premises or property. Mr. Bartlett was welcomed wherever his official visits took him. We in the Public Health Department will miss his presence as a member of our small staff and I am sure he will also be missed by the Council and numerous members of the public whom he served so well. For a short time the work was carried on by Mr. W. Harris.

His successor is Mr. W. G. Readman who commenced his duties in a part-time capacity on the 24th August, 1964. From what I already know of the standard of Mr. Readman's work I feel sure that the Council have chosen a keen and efficient successor to Mr. Bartlett.

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	46
No. of premises inspected and treated (private and business)	...	...	...	...	...	142
No. of visits made including surveys	...	...	...	...	...	478
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	116
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	...	410
No. of baiting points	1733

Quantity of Material Used.

Oatmeal with Warfarin	1458 lbs.
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Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	15
No. of visits and surveys made	22
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	24
No. of visits and surveys made	72

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